

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

As requested by voice message, an interview prior to action on this amendment is requested. Please contact the below indicated attorney to arrange such an interview.

There are no outstanding formal matters.

Claims 1-19 stand rejected as obvious over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of TAYLOR et al. 5,430,256 "TAYLOR").

Applicants have respectfully amended each of independent claims 1, 8 and 9 and dependent claim 4 in order to overcome the above-mentioned rejections. In addition, applicants have also canceled dependent claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-19 are now pending for consideration. Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 1:

Applicants have respectfully amended independent claim 1 in order to clarify the difference between the present application and the combination of AAPA and TAYLOR, and to overcome the above-mentioned rejections. The amendments add to claim 1 all of the limitations of previous dependent claims 2 and 3 (presently canceled). Support can be found in the description

of page 7; lines 23-26 of the specification, and Figure 4 as originally filed.

Now, the currently amended claim 1 is:

Claim 1. An electric cord, comprising:

a first end which electrically connects to a vibrator;
and

a second end which is an input terminal to which a drive signal for driving the vibrator is inputted, wherein

the electric cord is formed between the first end and the second end by a plurality of wire rods, the plural wire rods at least one of twisted, woven, and bundled together,

each of the plural wire rods is formed a plurality of wires, the plural wires at least one of twisted, woven, and bundled together,

each of the plural wires comprises a plurality of uninsulated core threads and a conductor wound on the plurality of core threads,

the plurality of wires flow the same electric current,
and

the surface of the conductor is covered with an insulator so that the respective wires are electrically insulated from each other.

AAPA discloses that the respective wires (1a) are not electrically insulated from each other. See Figures 1-3.

In contrast, as illustrated in Figures 4A-4B and claimed in the last limitation of the currently amended claim 1, however, the surface of the conductor (22) is covered with an insulator (23) so that the respective wires (2a) of the currently amended claim 1 are electrically insulated from each other.

In the currently amended claim 1 (see further Figure 5), each of the plurality of wires (2a) comprises a plurality of core threads (21) which are uninsulated and a conductor (22) wound on the plurality of core threads (21).

On the contrary, the insulated wire (10) in TAYLOR is coated with polyurethane. See column 2, line 37 and column 2, lines 44-47. That is, the insulated wire (10) comprises neither core threads nor a conductor.

Even granted that the core bundle (B) in TAYLOR corresponds to each of the plurality of wire rods (1b) of Figure 3 of AAPA, and that the insulated wire (10) in TAYLOR corresponds to each of the plurality of wires (2a) of AAPA, TAYLOR does not disclose any conductors that corresponds to the conductor (22) in the claim 1 which winds core threads (21). That is, TAYLOR does not disclose that the surface of a conductor is covered with an insulator.

Since neither AAPA nor TAYLOR discloses that the surface of the conductor is covered with an insulator, even if a person with ordinary skill in the art combined AAPA with TAYLOR, one could not produce an electric cord comprised of an insulated conductor wound on a plurality of uninsulated core threads.

With respect to claim 4:

In order to clarify the difference *between* the present application *and* the combination of AAPA and TAYLOR, and to overcome the above-mentioned rejections, applicants have

respectfully amended dependent claim 4 which depends upon previous independent claim 1. Support can be found in the description of page 9, lines 20-23 of the specification, and Figure 7 as originally filed.

Claim 4. An electric cord, comprising:

a first end which electrically connects to a vibrator;
and

a second end which is an input terminal to which a drive signal for driving the vibrator is inputted, wherein

the electric cord is formed between the first end and the second end by a plurality of wire rods, the plural wire rods at least one of twisted, woven, and bundled together,

each of the plural wire rods is formed a plurality of wires, the plural wires at least one of twisted, woven, and bundled together,

each of the plural wires comprises a plurality of uninsulated core threads and a conductor wound on the surface of the plurality of core threads,

the plurality of wires flow the same electric current,
and

the external side of the conductor wound on the core threads is covered with an insulator so that the respective wires are electrically insulated from each other.

The difference between AAPA and the currently amended claim 4 is that claim 4 claims the external side of the conductor (32) wound on the core threads (31) is covered with an insulator (33) so that the respective wires (3a) are electrically insulated from each other.

In the currently amended claim 4, each of the plurality of wires (3a) comprises a plurality of core threads (31) which

are uninsulated and a conductor (32) wound on the surface of the plurality of the core threads (31). The insulated wire (10) in TAYLOR, however, comprises neither core threads nor a conductor.

Even granted that the core bundle (B) in TAYLOR corresponds to each of the plurality of wire rods (1b) of Figure 3 of AAPA, and that the insulated wire (10) in TAYLOR corresponds to each of the plurality of wires (3a) of AAPA, TAYLOR does not disclose any conductors that corresponds to the conductor (32) in the claim 4 which winds core threads (31). That is, TAYLOR does not disclose that the external side of the conductor wound on the core threads is covered with an insulator.

Since neither AAPA nor TAYLOR discloses that the external side of the conductor wound on the core threads is covered with an insulator, even if a person with ordinary skill in the art combined AAPA with TAYLOR, one could not achieve an insulated conductor the external side of the conductor wound on a plurality of uninsulated core threads is covered with an insulator.

With respect to claims 8 and 9:

Applicants have respectfully amended independent claims 8 and 9 in order to clarify the difference *between* the present application *and* the combination of AAPA and TAYLOR, and to overcome the above-mentioned rejections. That is, all of the limitations of the previous dependent claim 2 (presently canceled) are included into claims 8 and 9 respectively. Support

can be found in the description of page 7, lines 23-26 and page 9, lines 20-23 of the specification, and Figures 4 and 7 as originally filed.

Both independent claims 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable for the same reason as claim 1.

CONCLUSION:

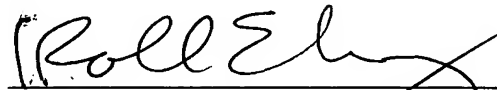
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as herein are inventive over the combination of AAPA and TAYLOR. The present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-19 are earnestly solicited.

Therefore, the present application is believed to be patentable over AAPA in view of TAYLOR.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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